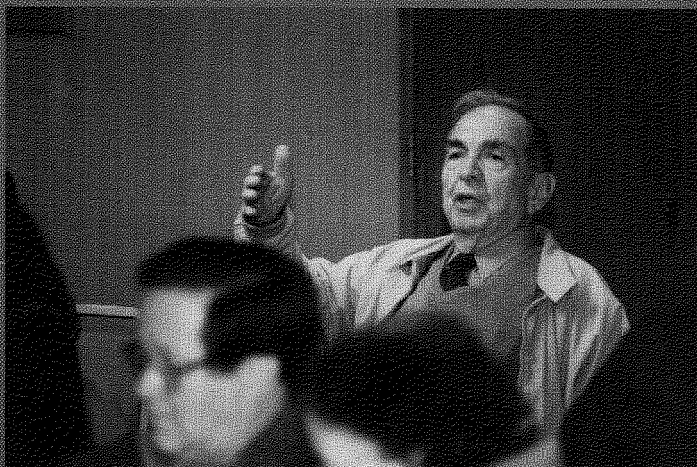


Public Involvement

For more information, call the INEEL toll-free number at 1(800) 708-2680.



An INEEL town meeting

INEEL Asks Public for Input on Permits

The INEEL held two meetings, in December 2000 and June 2001, to ask the public for its input on changing the hazardous waste permit for the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center's Liquid Waste Management system from an interim to a fully-permitted status.

Other meetings were also held to gain the public's input on:

- extending the Waste Reduction Operations Complex hazardous waste permit, and
- relocating an area at Los Alamos National Laboratory where research, development and application of experiments on nuclear criticality is conducted.

Agencies Ask Public For Input on Cleanup Projects

The DOE, EPA and IDEQ issued a proposed plan in November 2000 to amend a previous decision for the remediation of a contaminated groundwater plume at Test Area North. Public meetings were held in Idaho Falls and Twin Falls and the public's comments were

considered. The agencies issued a Record of Decision in August 2001 with a more effective remedy.

The INEEL also held public workshops in Idaho Falls, in July and November 2001, to discuss the INEEL CERCLA Disposal Facility, a contaminated soil and debris landfill being constructed at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center.

In August 2001, the DOE, EPA and IDEQ issued a comprehensive remedial investigation/feasibility study for the Snake River Plain Aquifer and Miscellaneous Sites, including the Experimental Breeder Reactor-I/Boiling Water Reactor Experiment facilities. The agencies followed this with a proposed plan, which was issued in January 2002 for public comment.

DOE Asks Public For Input on Environmental Assessments

In 2001, DOE issued two draft environmental assessments for the deactivation, decommissioning and dismantlement of the CPP-603 spent nuclear fuel storage basins at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center. Proposed

alternatives for the disposal of 1.5 million gallons of water in the storage basins, and for sludge and other wastes generated by the dismantlement and decontamination process will follow. The final environmental assessments are expected in mid-2002.

Idaho High-Level Waste Environmental Impact Statement Effort Resumes

Work on the Idaho High-Level Waste Environmental Impact Statement was halted during 2001 while DOE conducted a complex wide review of environmental restoration programs. The study analyzes treatment alternatives for high-level and sodium-bearing waste. Work began again in January 2002 and a final environmental impact statement is expected to be issued in mid-2002.

Wildfires Addressed

DOE and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management established an interagency wildfire suppression program in 2001. Wildfires have burned more than 136,000 acres at the INEEL since 1994. The two

Links/Resources

Get Involved (public involvement information)	www.inel.gov/get-involved
INEEL	www.inel.gov
INEEL publications	www.inel.gov/publications
INEEL public documents	www.inel.gov/publicdocuments
U.S. Department of Energy	www.energy.gov
U.S. Department of Energy-Idaho Operations Office	www.id.doe.gov/doeid
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	www2.state.id.us/deq
State of Idaho	www.state.id.us
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us/index.htm
Argonne National Laboratory-West	www.anlw.anl.gov
Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project	www.amwtp.com/index.cfm
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	www.epa.gov
• drinking water standards	www.epa.gov/safewater/mcl.html
• drinking water contaminants	www.epa.gov/OGWDW/hfacts.html
• contaminant descriptions	www.epa.gov/enviro/html/emci/chemref/index.html
Federal information database	www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/index.html
INEEL technical library	www.inel.gov/library

The INEEL Administrative Record is available at the following locations:

INEEL Technical Library
DOE Public Reading Room
1776 Science Center Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83415
(208) 526-1185

Albertsons Library
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725
(208) 426-1621

University of Idaho
Campus Library
434 2nd Street
Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 885-6344

agencies began preparing a draft wildfire management plan environmental assessment. It will be available for public review and comment by May 2002.

The BLM reseeded 14,000 acres, including an area immediately south of Route 26, adjacent to the INEEL.

Stakeholder Input Important for Future Waste Management

DOE is pursuing a plan to remove and dispose of the INEEL's mixed waste without using incineration. The plan is based on recommendations from an advisory group, known as the Blue Ribbon Panel on Emerging Technological Alternatives to Incineration.

An important part of DOE's plan is stakeholder involvement. It includes establishing a citizens' committee, and conducting national forums for stakeholders to discuss proposed treatment options. DOE held the first citizens' committee meeting in February 2002 and scheduled the first national forum for June 2002.

Public Has Opportunity to Comment on DOE's Plan to Accelerate Cleanup

DOE-Idaho Operations Office and its contractors developed a draft Performance Management Plan for accelerating cleanup of the INEEL. The draft plan differs from previous plans to complete cleanup work by 2070.

The draft plan envisions that all materials will be placed in safe storage and ready for disposal by 2012. All active cleanup work will be completed by 2020 or even potentially by 2016. The remaining cleanup work — shipping spent nuclear fuel to a repository; retrieving, treating, packaging and shipping high level waste calcine to a repository; and the final dismantlement of buildings used for Environmental Management activities — will be completed by 2035.

The plan to accelerate cleanup has two objectives: 1) risk reduction and continued protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer, and 2) consolidation of Environmental Management activities and reinvestment of the savings into cleanup. It will be implemented through nine

"strategic initiatives" developed to meet these objectives. (See Priorities for the Future on page 8.) Successful implementation will result in the cleanup being completed decades earlier and costs reduced by up to \$19 billion.

In May 2002, DOE, DEQ and EPA signed a letter of intent formalizing an agreement to pursue accelerated risk reduction and cleanup at the INEEL. The letter does not change existing agreements, but provides the foundation for a collaborative plan to more efficiently integrate the implementation of those agreements.

Public meetings were held in Idaho Falls and Twin Falls during June to explain the draft plan and give the public an opportunity to comment. The next revision of the plan will be issued in August.

Information on the draft *Environmental Management Performance Management Plan for Accelerating Cleanup of the INEEL* can be found at www.inel.gov/environment/accelerating-cleanup/

Learn More!

> Public meetings and briefings.

The INEEL gives presentations on a wide range of topics. In 2001, 29,241 people, including 16,634 students, attended 274 presentations. For information, contact Lane Allgood at (208) 526-9760, (800) 708-2680 or at allgooml@inel.gov.

> Tours. The Experimental Breeder Reactor-I is a National Historic Landmark open to the public from Memorial Day through Labor Day. It attracted nearly 7,000 visitors in 2001.

The INEEL offers guided tours, which can address a variety of interests, including science and engineering research, archeology, and wildlife and ecosystem management. For information, contact Don Miley at (208) 526-5523 or at vdm@inel.gov.

> Independent advisory, oversight and citizen groups.

Several independent groups provide monitoring information, and make recommendations on issues affecting the INEEL, DOE-Idaho, EPA Region 10 and the state of Idaho. One group, the INEEL Citizens' Advisory Board, addresses issues ranging from buried waste at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex's Subsurface Disposal Area to proposed cleanup plans and contaminated groundwater.

More information about these groups is available at www.inel.gov/get-involved/.

> Fact Sheets and Publications.

A variety of publications, fact sheets and notices are available on the INEEL's web site at www.inel.gov/environment. Two recent fact sheets address groundwater contamination across the INEEL and at Test Area North.

Get Involved!

Information about ways to become involved is available at www.inel.gov/get-involved. Upcoming opportunities for involvement include:

- the agencies proposed plan for the Snake River Plain Aquifer and Miscellaneous Sites including the EBR-I/BORAX facilities
- INEEL's Long-Term Stewardship Program
- INEEL's Water Integration Project, and
- the federal budget for FY 2003.

The INEEL's Events Calendar and Seminar Series are good ways to plan for upcoming events.

**Environmental Management Program
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Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3206**

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